

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /066 W

-----020434Z 089690 /20

P R 020330Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TP RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9169

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6575

CINCPAC FOR POLAND

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, XF

SUBJ: MINDANAO NEGOTIATIONS BREAKDOWN

REF: A) MANILA 6560 (NOTAL) B) MANILA 6380 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (PLUS MNLF) BROKE DOWN APRIL 30. BOTH SIDES CLAIMED THE OTHER TOOK INITIATIVE TO END TALKS. IMPASSE CAME ON FAMILIAR ISSUES, WITH IC/MNLF INSISTING ON THIRTEEN-PROVINCE AUTONOMOUS REGION AND CLAIMING THAT APRIL 17 REFERENDUM VIOLATED EARLIER TRIPOLI AGREEMENT (DEC 23) AND MARCOS-QADHAFI "FORMULA" OF MARCH 18-19, WHICH BOTH SIDES CLAIMED TO RESPECT. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CEASE FIRE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THUS FAR WE HAVE NOT  
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HEARD OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH. ISLAMIC CONFERENCE -MNLF DELEGATES HAVE DEPARTED FOR KUALA LUMPUR.  
END SUMMARY

2. BOTH FORN SEC ROMULO AND ISLAMIC SEC GEN KARIM GAYE HELD PRESS CONFERENCES AND ISSUED STATEMENTS MAY 1. (ALTHOUGH MARCOS RETURNED FROM JAPAN TRIP EARLY TO DEAL WITH MINDANAO IMPASSE,HE

APPARENTLY DID NOT TAKE DIRECT PART IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY IN DEADLOCK AND HAS ALLOWED ROMULO TO ANNOUNCE BAN NEWS. ROMULO STATEMENT, FULLY REPORTED BY MANILA PRESS, ACCUSES MNLF OF "UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS THAT VIOLATE THE CONSTITUTION...NEGATE THE VIEWS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE MNLF, AND SET ASIDE PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS, INCLUDING QADHAFI-MARCOS "FORMULA".

3. IC-MNLF ISSUED SIX PAGE "COMMUNIQUE" EXPLICATED BY KARIM GAYE AT PRESS CONFERENCE. IT ACCUSED GOP OF NEGOTIATING IN BAD FAITH TO GAIN TIME AND BUILD UP FORCES FOR RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES. IT APPEALED TO THIRD WORLD TO STAND BY "TERRORIZED PEOPLES" OF SOUTH AND SAID ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ISLAMIC STATES SHOULD "ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO STOP THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FROM EXTERMINATING THE MUSLIMS IN THE SOUTH." IT FURTHER APPEALED TO UN SEC GEN AND PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION "TO INTERVENE TO STOP ACTIONS OF MASSACRE CARRIED OUT IN THE SOUTH OF THE PHILIPPINES WHICH CONSTITUTE A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A THREAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY."

4. KARIM GAYE TOLD REPORTERS THAT APRIL 17 REFERENDUM WAS "POLITICAL MANEUVER" IN VIOLATION OF TRIPOLI AND MARCOS-QADHAFI AGREEMENTS, AND THAT IF GOP HAD WANTED TRUE CONSULTATIONS IT WOULD HAVE USED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (AS PROVIDED BY AGREEMENTS) OR AT VERY LEAST HELD "OPEN" REFERENDUM WITHOUT PRESENCE OF TROOPS AND AFTER RELEASING POLITICAL PRISONERS. ALI TURAYKI THEN WENT OVER SAME GROUND, ADDING CLEARLY EXAGGERATED CHARGE THAT GOP HAD USED CEASE FIRE TO BUILD FORCES IN SOUTH TO  
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LEVEL OF SIXTY BATTALIONS. (AT HIS OWN PRESS CONFERENCE ROMULO ALSO ACCUSED MNLF OF BUILDING FORCES DURING CEASE FIRE.)

5. ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DELEGATION AND MNLF DELEGATES SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTED FOR KUALA LUMPUR, APPARENTLY TO SEE MNLF CHAIRMAN NUR MISUARI. (AP REPORTS ALI TURAYKI REMARKS FROM KUALA LUMPUR ON MORE UPBEAT NOTE, EMPHASIZING THAT THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR SETTLEMENT AND PERMANENT PEACE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY HOW NERVOUS MINDANAO POPULACE, BOTH MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN, WILL REACT TO LATEST EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING IMPASSE. IT IS SOMEWHAT REASSURING THAT BOTH SIDES SEEM ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE CEASEFIRE, BUT SITUATION NOW EXISTS WHERE ACCIDENT OR MISCALCLATION COULD RESULT IN SHARP UPTURN IN COMMUNAL VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY IF EITHER SIDE YIELDS TO TEMPTATION TO ATTEMPT SHOW FORCE BEFORE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND DUE TO BEGIN IN TRIPOLI ON MAY 16, AND WHERE NEXT STATE OF DIPLOMATIC SCENARIO WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE.

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## Message Attributes

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